

REMARKS

The Official Action has required the election of one of the following groups:

Group I: Claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 drawn to an antisense compound capable of inhibiting MIF, which may optionally be a pharmaceutical composition, classified in class 536, subclass 24.5;

Group II: Claims 1, 3, 6, and 8 drawn to a ribozyme compound capable of inhibiting MIF, which may optionally be a pharmaceutical composition, classified in class 536, subclass 24.5;

Group III: Claims 1, 4, 6, and 9, drawn to a triple helix compound capable of inhibiting MIF, which may optionally be a pharmaceutical composition, classified in class 536, subclass 24.5;

Group IV: Claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 14 and 15, drawn to an anti-MIF antibody capable of inhibiting MIF, which may optionally be a pharmaceutical composition, classified in class 530, subclass 24.5;

Group V: Claims 11-13 and 16-23, drawn to methods of treating cellular overproliferation or neovascularization comprising administering an agent which inhibits MIF activity, wherein said agent is an anti-MIF antibody or fragment thereof, classified in class 435, subclass 7.1; and

Group VI: Claims 22 and 24, drawn to treating tumor neovascularization comprising administering an agent which inhibits MIF activity, wherein said agent is an antisense molecule directed to MIF mRNA, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

In responding to the restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, Group IV, Claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 14, and 15.

Application Serial No.: 10/693,498

The above election is being made with traverse. In particular, Applicants respectfully submit that the search and examination of all currently pending claims would not pose an undue burden on the Examiner. Section 803 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure states that "[I]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." In view of the above, applicants respectfully request examination of all currently pending claims.

In responding to the restriction/election of species requirement, the Applicants take no position regarding whether the claims of the various groups and species identified in the Official Action define distinct inventions.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above, Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for examination on the merits. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Date

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Patent & Trademark Office

Respectfully submitted,

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